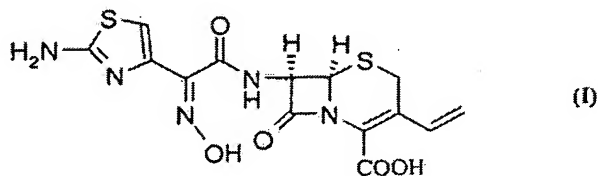
Amendments to the Claims

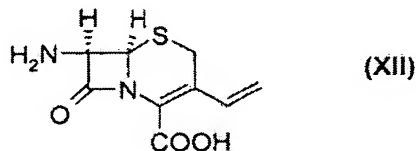
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of cefdinir of the formula (I):



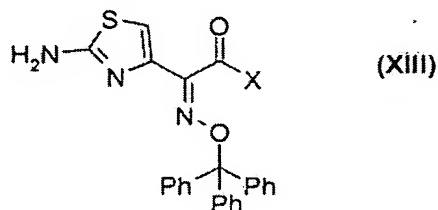
~~the said process comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

- \_\_\_\_\_ i)      condensing 7-amino-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of the formula (XII):



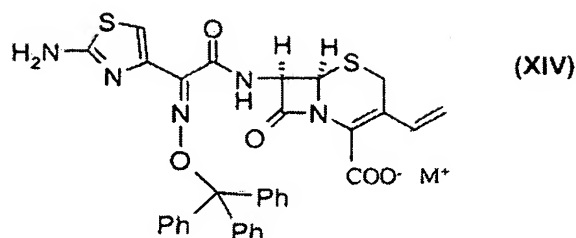
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein R<sub>1</sub> is as defined ~~above~~ above,

\_\_\_\_\_ with a compound of the formula (XIII):



\_\_\_\_\_ where X represents an activation group,

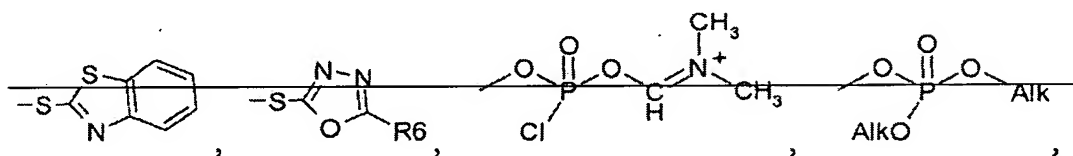
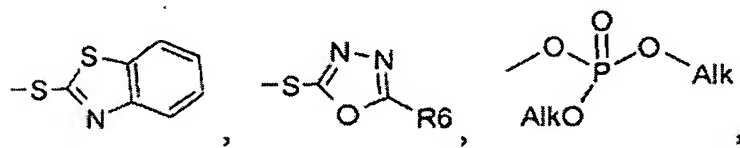
\_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of a tertiary amine and ~~an organic~~ a solvent, followed by treatment with a base to produce a salt of compound formula ~~(XIV)~~, (XIV):



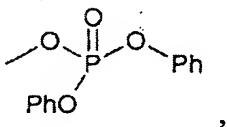
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein  $M^+$  is a counter-ion; and

\_\_\_\_\_ ii) hydrolyzing the compound of the formula (XIV) using an acid in the presence of a solvent to produce cefdinir of formula (I).

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein ~~activation group represented by X~~ is selected from the group consisting of an ester functional group, a thioester functional group, halogen atom such as a chlorine atom, a bromine atom,



an iodine atom, and



where  $R_6$  represents a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl group or a phenyl-group; group and Alk-group represents a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein the counter ion represented by M is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, lithium, magnesium, ammonium, dicyclohexylamine dicyclohexylammonium, N,N'

~~dibenzylethylenediamine N,N'-dibenzylethylenediammonium, 1,8-diazabicyclo(5.4.0)undec-7-ene (DBU), 1,5-diazabicyclo(4.3.0)non-5-ene, N,N'-diphenylethylenediamine N,N'-diphenylethylenediammonium, 1,4-diazabicyclo(2.2.2)octane, N,N-diisopropylethylamine N,N-diisopropylethylammonium, and or N,N-diisopropylamine N,N-diisopropylammonium.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, N-methylpiperidine, N,N-diisopropylethylamine, and trimethylamine ~~and the like~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~organic~~ solvent used in step (i) is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, THF, cyclohexanol, acetone, butan-2-one, acetonitrile, DMAc, ~~water or a water, and mixtures mixture~~ thereof.

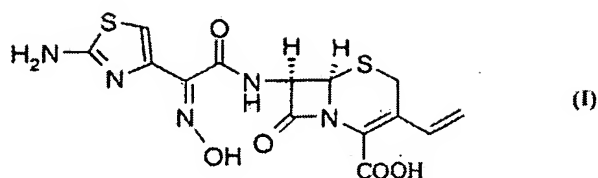
6. (Currently Amended) The process according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~organic~~ solvent used in step (ii) is selected from the group consisting of acetone, 2-butanone, methanol, isopropanol, ethanol, THF, acetonitrile, DMAc, water, ~~and the like or mixtures thereof~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of HCl, sulfuric acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and ~~or~~ aromatic/aliphatic sulfonic acids.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) obtained is a syn isomer.

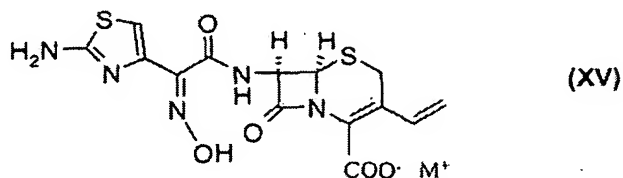
9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of a novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by of the formula (I); as claimed in claim 9;



comprising:

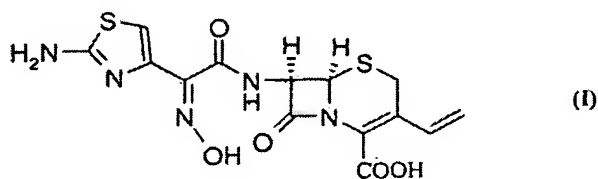
\_\_\_\_\_ hydrolyzing the compound represented by ~~of the~~ formula (XV);



wherein M<sup>+</sup> represents a counter ion, comprising the steps of:

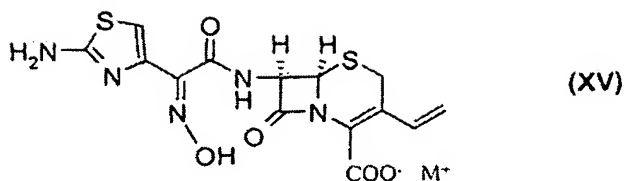
- \_\_\_\_\_ i) adding ~~an organic~~ a solvent to a compound of formula (XV),
  - \_\_\_\_\_ ii) adjusting the pH of the resulting solution using an acid at a temperature in the range of 10 to 40 °C,
  - \_\_\_\_\_ iii) cooling ~~cooling~~ the resulting solution rapidly to -40 to -20 °C,
- and
- \_\_\_\_\_ iv) isolating the novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by ~~of the~~ formula (I).

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by ~~of the~~ formula (I); ~~as claimed in claim 9,~~



comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ hydrolyzing the compound represented by ~~of the~~ formula (XV)



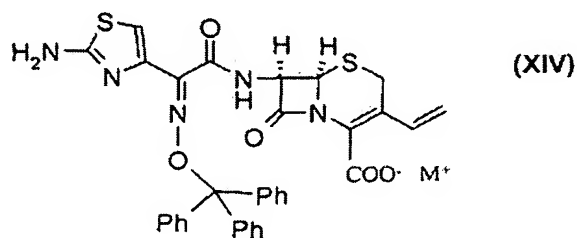
comprising the steps of:

- \_\_\_\_\_ i) adding ~~an organic~~ a solvent to a compound of formula (XV),
- \_\_\_\_\_ ii) ~~cooling~~ the resulting solution to -40 to ~~0~~ 0 °C and
- \_\_\_\_\_ iii) adjusting the pH of the resulting solution by rapid addition of an acid at a temperature in the range of 10 to 40 °C, and
- \_\_\_\_\_ iv) isolating the novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by of the formula (I).

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to as claimed in claim 10, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, 2-butanone, methanol, isopropanol, ethanol, THF, acetonitrile, DMAc, water and ~~the like or~~ mixtures thereof.

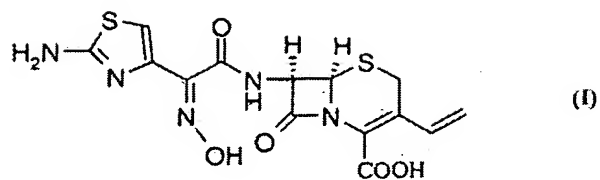
13. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in claim 10~~ according to claim 10, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of HCl, sulfuric acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and ~~or~~ aromatic/aliphatic sulfonic acids.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound of compound formula (XIV),



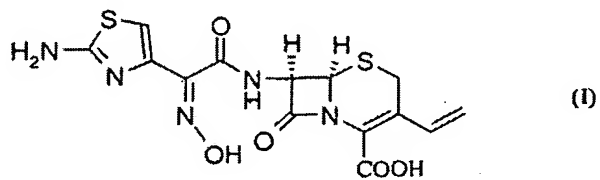
wherein M<sup>+</sup> represents a counter sodium ion or potassium ion.

15. (New) An amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I):



obtained by the process according to claim 10.

16. (New) An amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I):



obtained by the process according to claim 11.